

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Initially it should be noted that the examiner indicated the subject matter of previously submitted dependent claim 29 as being allowable. Applicant by the instant amendment has rewritten dependent claim 29 in independent form as new independent claim 30. Independent claim 30 contains all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims from which indicated allowable dependent claim 29 depended. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 30 is now in condition for allowance.

Applicant has extensively amended independent claim 15 so as to distinguish over the prior art. Independent claim 15 now includes the subject matter of cancelled dependent claims 16, 17, 21 and 22. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claim 15 is patentable over the cited and applied prior art references for the reasons set forth hereinbelow.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art references cited or applied by the examiner teach, disclose or suggest the details of the spindle element, the at least one lock, and the at least one locking element as now claimed in amended independent claim 15. The prior art does not teach a spindle element which comprises a threaded rod which passes through the at least one lock and engages with at least one locking element. The examiner in his rejection refers to parts 20 and 81 together as being the "at least one locking element". It is respectfully submitted that the examiner has misinterpreted this reference and the elements referred to

cannot be fairly read to be the equivalent structure of that being claimed in amended independent claim 15.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Gregory P. LaPointe #28395/  
Gregory P. LaPointe  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No.: 28,395

Telephone: 203-777-6628  
Telefax: 203-865-0297

Date: January 21, 2008